

**Quarterly Activity Report  
Post-Hurricane Reconstruction Project  
CD/EPO/Division of International Health  
January-March 2002 (Quarter 2, FY02)**

**Costa Rica**

**1. Highlights:**

- Accomplishment of goals according to work plan
- Developed and completed a proposal for the organization of the National Health Surveillance Information System
- Defined a training plan in field epidemiology for regional and local health levels in Costa Rica, for year 2002-2003

**2. IR 1 - Health Information Systems**

*Indicator: Epidemiological surveillance of disease priorities in Costa Rica*

Progress:

- Data analysis of surveillance system of HIV/AIDS, diarrhea and vaccine coverage
- Identification of strengths and weaknesses of the three information and surveillance systems

Results:

- Three reports of analysis of data: "Trends of HIV/AIDS in Costa Rica", "Vaccine coverage in Costa Rica: pockets, gaps and opportunities to improve the information system", "Trends and risk factors of diarrhea in Costa Rica".

Actions:

- Presentation of analysis of vaccine coverage to National Committee of Immunization Practices, chaired by Minister of Health
- Discussion of diarrhea trends and results of Los Santos outbreak investigation during a national workshop (60 participants from hospitals, clinics and regional teams)
- Updating of diarrhea protocols
- Formulation of a plan to strengthen HIV/AIDS surveillance

Future Activities:

- Implementation of an electronic vaccine registry linked to epidemiological surveillance system
- Training of health workers teams to improve outbreak investigation of diarrhea
- Implementation of plan to strengthen HIV/AIDS surveillance

*Indicator: Pilot-test of the "National Information System for Surveillance" Pacífico Central Region with extension to other regions of the country*

Progress:

- The consultant firm designed the software for the information system of epidemiological surveillance
- Defined a proposal of the organization and institutional responsibilities for the

sustainability of the information system

Results:

- First version of software for health surveillance information system
- Manual of organization of AVISA (Information System for Health Surveillance)

Actions:

- Inter-institutional team (MoH, CCSS, Inciensa) is validating the software and information system
- Approval of manual of organization by health authorities
- Definition of site for data warehouse of the information system

Future Activities:

- To validate software in the local and regional level
- Modification of information system according to results in local and regional levels
- Training and support of personal to implement the system

*Indicator: Enhancement of public health communications*

Progress:

- Edition, reproduction and distribution of the Weekly Bulletin of Health Surveillance (number 1 to 15)
- Elaboration of a plan of publication of scientific articles to be finished in July 2002
- Five abstracts submitted to International Tephinet Conference, Madrid

Results:

- Weekly Bulletin of Health Surveillance (N° 1 – 15) distributed in the whole country
- Two scientific articles finished and sent to Pan American Journal of Public Health (see table below)
- Three abstracts accepted to be presented during the International Tephinet Conference, Madrid, June 2002

Actions:

- Defining a list server to increase coverage of Bulletin and reduce costs using internet
- Elaboration of oral presentation and posters to be presented in Tephinet Conference, Madrid

Future Activities:

- To continue publication and distribution of Weekly Bulletins
- To participate in Internacional Tephinet Conference, Madrid
- To finish analysis and writing of articles according to plan of publications

### **3. IR2 – Increased Availability of Epidemiologists in the Region and Training of Other Level Health Workers by these Epidemiologists**

*Indicator: Successful completion of FETP training*

Progress:

- The first and second FETP cohort are working in their field projects

Results:

- Reports of projects of trainees: outbreaks investigations, improvement of surveillance system of priority diseases, research projects and training activities (see table below)

Actions:

- Communication of results (see table)

Future Activities:

- Implementation of work plan of each trainee
- Completion of projects and field reports

<b>FETP OUPUT DURING QUARTER</b>	<b>Initiated (date)</b>	<b>Completed (date)</b>
<b>Outbreak Investigation:</b> 1. Investigation of outbreak of rash and fever in Cartagena, Guanacaste 2. Shigella diarrhea outbreak during seasonal coffee harvest, Los Santos, Costa Rica, 2002 3. Dengue outbreak investigation in Pacific Region 4. Malaria outbreak in Pacific Region	January 2002  January 2002  January 2002 January 2002	Epi Report (March 2002)  Epi Report (April 2002)  In progress In progress
<b>Surveillance Studies</b> 1. Evaluation of nosocomial surveillance system 2. Characterization of rash and fever diseases in Costa Rica 3. Trends and risk factors of diarrhea in Costa Rica 4. Trends of HIV/AIDS in Costa Rica 5. Vaccine coverage in Costa Rica: pockets, gaps and opportunities to improve the information system	Sept 2001 Dec 2001  Nov 2001 Jan 2002 Jan 2002	Finished March 2002 In progress  Finished, March 2002 Finished, March 2002 Finished, March 2002
<b>Planned Epi Project:</b> 1. Follow up of pregnant women inadvertently vaccinated with MR vaccine during national campaign 2. Retrospective study to estimate incidence of CRS in Costa Rica (1996-2000) 3. Community based intervention for the prevention and control of dengue in Puntarenas 4. Evaluation of vaccine coverage in children under 5 years during a campaign 5. Evaluation of vaccine coverage using a National Household Survey, Costa Rica, July 2002	June 2001  Sept 2001  July 2001  Dec 2001  Dec 2001	Progress report presented in Brasilia, April 2002 Finished analysis of data, March 2002 In progress  Finished, April 2002  In progress

<b>Communication Products</b>		
1. Two articles submitted to Pan American Journal of Public Health: “CRS in Costa Rica: Need to Strengthen Active Surveillance”, “Immunization Strategies and Impact on Epidemiology of Rubella in Costa Rica, 1970-2001”	July, 2001	Sent to Journal (April 2002)
2. Draft of Article “Diarrhea outbreak secondary to salmonella enteritidis during a wedding party, Alajuela, Costa Rica”	Nov, 2001	To be finished (May 2002)
3. Draft of Article “Rabies in Costa Rica: an emerging disease” Draft of Article “Seroprevalence of rubella in school children and fertile women in Costa Rica”	Sept 2001	To be finished (May 2002)
4. Draft of Article “Incidence of MR vaccine adverse events in adults during a national campaign”	July, 2001	To be finished (June 2002)
5. Draft of Article “Impact of Haemophilus Influenzae type b vaccine in Costa Rica”	Jan, 2002	To be finished (July 2002)
6. Three abstracts (1 oral presentation and 2 posters) accepted for International Tephinet Conference, Madrid 2002.	Jan, 2002	June, 2002

*Indicator: Implementation of Modules of FETP (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> cohorts)*

Progress:

- Support the planning of module II, “Public Health Surveillance”, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort (Honduras) and module IV for the 1<sup>st</sup> cohort, “Special Topics of Surveillance: Vaccine Preventable Diseases” (El Salvador)

Results:

- Curriculum design and training materials to use in modules mentioned above

Actions:

- Participation in the training modules

Future Activities:

- Training and evaluation of modules

*Indicator: Local epidemiological capacity strengthened*

Progress:

- The local level teams of Brunca and Atlantic Regions (N°=60 participants) completed their training and are finishing their field projects to be presented in a National Conference
- Elaborated a national plan of training to improve local capacity in field epidemiology
- Assessment of training experience by two professionals of CDC/DIH

Results:

- Sixty participants are finishing their training
- First draft of DDM assessment presented to national institutions
- Completed the training plan in field epidemiology for year 2002-2003

Actions:

- To evaluate this training experience and improve the program

Future Activities:

- Presentation of local field projects during National Conference (May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2002)
- Edition and reproduction of training material for future courses in field epidemiology
- Training in field epidemiology to local teams of other regions of Costa Rica

**4. IR 3 - Laboratory Rehabilitation**

*Indicator: Development of the information system for the National Reference Laboratory in Inciensa*

Progress:

- Information System of Reference Laboratories implemented

Results:

- Information System for National Reference Laboratories functioning in Inciensa

Actions:

- Integration of National Reference Laboratory Information System with the Health Surveillance System (AVISA)

New Initiatives/Future Activities:

- Support and maintenance of the implementation of Information System.

*Indicator: Rehabilitation of the virology laboratory in Inciensa*

Progress:

- Rehabilitation of virology laboratory

Results:

- National Reference Laboratory for virus

Actions:

- To initiate activities of rebuilt laboratory

New Initiatives/Future Activities:

- Implementing new functions of viral laboratory

*Indicator: Effective and efficient laboratory tests*

Progress:

- Plan of training finished

Results:

- Completed the training as planned

Actions:

- Follow up of training

New Initiatives/Future Activities:

- Extend training to other personal

**5. IR 4 - Community-Based Interventions**

*Indicator: Effectiveness of community-based intervention for the prevention and control of dengue in Puntarenas*

Progress:

- Community intervention is progressing as planned

Results:

- Community and local teams performing activities of the project

Actions:

- To continue implementation of project

New Initiatives/Future Activities:

- To finish implementation of the intervention.

**6. Important Administration Issues**

- The project is its last stage of implementation and the work plan has been almost fulfill.
- A new government initiate its 4 year period in May 2002 and should be informed and involved in the plan for sustainability of the project

**7. Other meetings**

- Visit of CDC/DIH staff to assess local training experience (DDM)
- Progress Report of Mitch Project (August 2000-March 2002) presented to the Inter-Institutional Committee (MOH, CCSS, Inciensa, PAHO, and CDC)